

ASHLAND BOARD OF ELECTRIC COMMISSIONERS MEETING MINUTES

**March 18, 2008
ASHLAND UTILITY OFFICE
6 COLLINS STREET
ASHLAND, NH
7:00 P.M.**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Mr. Kendall L. Hughes, Mr. Daniel Vaughn & Mr. Michael Evleth

OTHERS PRESENT: Lee Nichols, Daniel Boynton, Robert Boyle, Beth Bartlett and Linda Pack

CALL TO ORDER: Mr. Kendall L. Hughes called the Meeting of the Ashland Electric Commission to order at 7:01 P.M.

REORGANIZATION OF THE BOARD: Mr. Hughes introduced the two newly elected members of the Electric Commission Mr. Michael Evleth and Mr. Daniel Vaughn. Mr. Hughes advised those present, that the first order of business will be to reorganize the Board of Commissioners since the election of two new members. Mr. Evleth made a motion to appoint Mr. Kendall L. Hughes Chairman of the Electric Commission. Mr. Vaughn seconded the motion. Vote was unanimous

Mr. Kendall L. Hughes made a motion to appoint Daniel Vaughn Vice Chairman of the Electric Commission. Mr. Evleth seconded the motion. Vote was unanimous

Mr. Daniel Vaughn made a motion to appoint Mr. Michael Evleth Safety Officer of the Electric Commission. Mr. Hughes seconded the motion. Vote was unanimous.

Mr. Kendall L. Hughes made a motion to appoint Lee Nichols Superintendent of Ashland Electric Department. Mr. Evleth seconded the motion. Vote was unanimous.

Mr. Kendall L. Hughes made a motion to appoint Linda Pack Clerk of Ashland Electric Department. Mr. Vaughn seconded the motion. Vote was unanimous.

**APPROVAL OF
MINUTES:**

Mr. Kendall L. Hughes made a motion to approve the Minutes of January 8, 2008, February 12, 2008 and February 26, 2008 as presented. Mr. Vaughn seconded the motion. Mr. Hughes – yes, Mr. Vaughn – abstained and Mr. Evleth – abstained.

OLD BUSINESS:

Mr. Hughes and Mr. Nichols discussed the Union Contract Negotiations and Union Positions with the new commissioners. Mr. Evleth made a motion to have Kendall L. Hughes remain on the negotiation team for the Union Contract. Motion was seconded by Mr. Vaughn. Vote was unanimous.

Mr. Hughes attended the Budget Meeting and he was asked if the Electric Department could cut the \$43,000 dollars for streetlights from the budget. This issue was brought up previously by the Board of Selectmen in 2002 and a letter from Electric Chairman Dion was sent at that time. The Electric Commissioners will send a response to the Board of Selectmen as soon as possible.

There was a general discussion regarding Ashland Electric Department operations for the two new members and a discussion regarding the status of the Ashland Electric Hydro. Mr. Nichols gave the new commissioners the reasons why the previous board wanted to sell the hydro. He also told them the State of New Hampshire owns the dam but the Electric Department owns the Hydro. The dam could not be sold, only the Hydro. Mr. Nichols also advised that only a very small amount of power is produced from the Hydro and it would be very costly to repair it.

NEW BUSINESS:

Mr. Nichols presented pricing for a new meter reading handheld program. He asked the commissioners for fifteen thousand dollars for this program. He explained it would cut reading errors by approximately 95% and would do away with the time it takes for the office staff to enter all of the readings.

Kendall L. Hughes made a motion to put five thousand dollars into Capital Reserves for the Handheld Reader Program each month for the next three months. Daniel Vaughn seconded the motion. Vote was unanimous.

Mr. Evleth made a motion to appoint the Electric Commissioners Agents over all funds of the Electric Department including Capital Reserve Funds. Mr. Vaughn seconded the motion. Vote was unanimous.

**SUPERINTENDENTS
REPORT:**

Mr. Nichols advised the commissioners that he has posted the Linesman second class position. He also went over various job descriptions and explained the posting requirements to the new members of the board.

NON-PUBLIC SESSION:

None

ADJOURNMENT:

Mr. Evleth made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:45 P.M. Seconded by Mr. Vaughn. Vote was unanimous.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda A. Pack
Executive Secretary
Ashland Electric Department